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JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Denktas: Elections will be referendum on Turkey's guarantor status - Aksam
Denktas: Elections aim at liquidating the TRNC - Sabah
Erdogan: Two states must be recognized in Cyprus - Turkiye
Annan Plan is the 'knot' in Turkish Cypriot elections - Milliyet
Papadopoulos says Annan Plan has many shortcomings - Aksam
German police raid 1,100 houses of Turkish fundamentalists - Hurriyet
Cluster bombs killed hundreds of Iraqis -- HRW - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Turkey wants fair elections in TRNC - Cumhuriyet
Inevitable outcome of TRNC polls: Political crisis - Radikal
Erdogan: EU should convince Greek Cypriots as well - Radikal
83 attacks on Iraqi pipelines since April - Yeni Safak
Tehran vows to extradite 130 Al-Qaida members - Yeni Safak
CIA to set up local intelligence organization in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
EU has 'cultural rights problems' with Ankara - Zaman

BRIEFING

Turkish Cypriot elections: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas said he does not expect the opposition to win the December 14 election with a comfortable majority. 'I will not entrust the opposition with the task of forming a new government unless they achieve an overwhelming victory in the elections,' Denktas stressed. Prime Minister Erdogan drew attention to 'two different religions, two different languages, two different zones' in Cyprus. 'We are not ignoring the Annan Plan,' Erdogan said. 'We want the plan to be discussed comprehensively.' No matter which bloc emerges victorious, Ankara wants Cyprus negotiations resumed swiftly after the elections. Ankara is working on alternative proposals to some unacceptable provisions in the Annan Plan, 'Cumhuriyet' reports. Turkey finds the clauses on sovereignty in the plan vague, 'Cumhuriyet' adds. Ankara wants the plan to be amended in a way that accepts that 'the new partnership state should be based on the sovereignty of two states in Cyprus.' PM Erdogan, in Brussels for an EU summit, pointed to EU pressure on the Turkish Cypriots for settlement, and urged that the same pressure be exerted on Greek Cypriots as well.

Erdogan, Gul attend EU summit: Prime Minister Erdogan and Foreign Minister Gul, in Brussels to attend an EU summit, held meetings with their counterparts on Thursday. Turkey's leaders will be urged to step up efforts for a settlement in Cyprus. The EU has become more positive towards Turkey's EU accession due to the reforms carried out by Ankara, Verheugen reportedly told FM Gul. EU officials told the Turks that Ankara is close to meeting all of the Copenhagen Criteria. Nevertheless, the EU has outlined a series of shortcomings in the independence of the judiciary, the protection of basic freedoms, and the protection of cultural rights in southeastern Turkey. However, Turkish leaders are concerned about the EU approach that links the issue of cultural rights solely to the situation in the southeast.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) US Policy Issues
- b) EU Summit-Cyprus

"The Decline of American Policy Values"

Hasan Mesut Hazar filed this from Washington in the conservative-mass appeal *Turkiye* (12/12): "Anti-Americanism has increased dramatically during the Bush presidency. Because of Bush's unilateral and mistaken policies, the US has gone through a series of tiffs with its allies in its effort to carry out the fight against terrorism. There is also a serious erosion in the attractiveness of the US model, which used to embrace democracy, human rights, justice, freedom and free trade. The decline of American values has caused criticism not only internationally but also domestically. Yet President Bush remains blind to the arguments against his policies. There is no step back in this wrong-headed approach. On the contrary, Bush is becoming even more radical than before. It is not possible to talk about the US as a champion of freedoms around the globe. . We can only hope that common sense prevails in the end, so that the alarmingly dangerous policies shaped by the hawks in the Bush administration are prevented from doing more damage in the world."

"EU Summit "

Sami Kohen wrote in mass appeal *Milliyet* (12/12): "Turkey expects to see two messages come out of the EU summit in Brussels. One is about Turkey's EU membership prospects. Ankara hopes to hear encouraging remarks about the ongoing reforms and to see Turkey's chances increase for a date certain to open accession negotiations. . The second expectation is about Cyprus. It looks like the EU will modify its Cyprus rhetoric slightly in order to mollify Turkey. The final communique will stress that 'a solution to the Cyprus will facilitate Turkey's EU membership' instead of warning that a non-solution would be 'a serious obstacle.' The fact of the matter is that whatever the communique says, the EU has established a direct link between a settlement and the negotiation date. . It remains to be seen to what extent Turkish initiatives and diplomacy on the Cyprus issue will help in the search for a final settlement to this long-standing issue. It goes without saying that the northern Cypriot elections will play a very key role in this matter. The results of the election will not only shape the political future of Cyprus, but Turkey's political future as well. Turkey's foreign policy commitment, including the EU process, will be directly influenced by the outcome."

EDELMAN